

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/579,275**
Response dated January 16, 2004
Reply to OA of **October 23, 2003**

REMARKS

It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **October 23, 2003**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Washikawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,492,909) in view of Simpson (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,393).

The present invention is a component selection control system in which a turner (2), CD (3), taper recorder (4) and MD (5) each have there own audio output circuit (21, 31, 41 and 51) with their own on-off switches (23, 33, 44 and 54). In addition, the tape recorder (4) and the MD (5) have their own audio input circuit (42 and 52). A control circuit (22, 32, 43, and 53) indirectly controls the operation of the on-off switches (23, 33, 44, 45, 54, and 55) based on input from control circuit (15) which receives input from input unit (14).

Washikawa describes an audio signal processing device in which a single function change-over switch (21) is used to select between playback audio signal contact pieces (11P-14P) connected to terminals (11-14). In addition, recording audio signal contact pieces (11R-14R) are connected to signal processing circuit (22). No switch is described for switching between recording audio signal contact pieces (11R-14R). Still further, control bus contact pieces (11C-

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14C) are connected to a connection switch unit (32) to enable sequential time division multiplexing with the micro-computer in the audio appliance connected to terminal units (11-14).

Simpson describes an audio video control device. This device employs two switches (214 and 234). As discussed in column 3, lines 54-58 of Simpson

“The 3-bit input select signal 208 causes switch 214 to select among the four or eight output signals 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 from four or eight sources, such as video tape recorders, to generate a single source signal 232. The switch 214 comprises an 8-to-1 selector, as is well known in the art.”

Further as discussed in column 3, line 65 through column 4, line 2 of Simpson

“The single source signal 232 is input to a second switch 234 controlled by the 2-bit output select signal 210. The 2-bit output select signal 210 causes switch 234 to select among the four output signals 236, 238, 240 or 242 to four destinations, such as video tape recorders. The switch 234 comprises a 1-to-4-selector (or 1-to-8 selector with only 4 outputs), as is well known in the art.”

Therefore, switch (214) selects one of eight output signals to generate a single source signal (232) and switch (234) takes the single source signal (234) and outputs its to one of four output signals (236, 238, 240 and 242).

The present invention is characterized in that each of components including a tuner, CD, tape recorder has a separate and independent on-off switch.

The Examiner states, "Simpson teaches each of the signal output components (see fig. 1, 118) has separate and independent on-off switch (see fig. 2, 234) provided on a single output line for delivering the AV signal to the signal processing control unit (see fig.2, (200, 206)) there through."

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However, fig.2 of Simpson only discloses a first switch 214 to select among the four or eight output signals 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 from four or eight sources, such as video tape recorders, and a second switch 234 to select among the four output signals 236, 238, 240 or 242 to four destinations, such as video tape recorders, to which the signal selected by the first switch is to be provided. The second switch 234 is not a separate and independent switch provided on each of four destinations (see col. 3, lines 54-58, col. 3, line 65-col. 4, line 2). Therefore, the Examiner's opinion that the second switch 234 corresponds to the on-off switch of the present invention is respectfully traversed. Although the Examiner states, "Simpson teaches each of the signal output components (see fig. 1, 118) has separate and independent on-off switch (see fig. 2, 234)", only one second switch 234 appears to be provided in common on a plurality of signal output components (destinations). Therefore the Examiner's understanding is wrong and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

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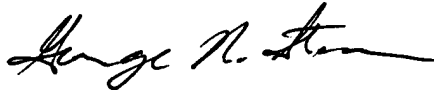
Conclusion

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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